

Trauma Fact Sheet

- ✚ Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for all Coloradoans between the ages of 1 and 44. *National Center for Health Statistics 2007.*
- ✚ Motor vehicle crashes are the leading killer of children, teens and young adults (ages 5 to 34) in Colorado and suicide is the second highest cause of death in Coloradoans for those between the ages of 10 and 34. *National Center for Health Statistics 2007.*
- ✚ \$623 million was the total crash-related death costs in Colorado in one year - \$618 million in work loss costs and \$5 million in medical costs. *National Center for Injury Prevention and Control 2005.*

Why Be a Trauma Center in Colorado?

- ✚ Participation in the statewide system improves the chances of survival of your families, friends and neighbors in your community as well as throughout the state. Studies have demonstrated that injured patients treated in designated trauma centers have better outcomes than injured patients treated in non-trauma hospitals, even for small rural hospitals. (Rural trauma: is trauma designation associated with better hospital outcomes? *Journal of Rural Health*. 2010 June;26(3):299.)
- ✚ Trauma designation requires a robust trauma quality improvement program which has been shown to improve the process of care, decrease mortality and decrease costs. (Establishing the evidence base for trauma quality improvement: a collaborative WHO-IATRIC review. *World Journal of Surgery*. 2009 May; 33(5):1075-86.)
- ✚ Participation in the state system will streamline patient flow to appropriate levels of care as the nature of injury acuity increases. Trauma designation pushes facilities to work on timeliness and decreases time in the ED prior to transfer.
- ✚ Conversely, it offers the rural facility the potential to more confidently manage appropriate IN-patients in their own community and offers the potential to repatriate patients who need rehab or swing-bed capabilities.
- ✚ Participating in a system designed to provide an organized, pre-planned response to the trauma patient helps assure both optimal patient care and the most efficient use of limited health care resources.
- ✚ Conducting trauma prevention activities can decrease the incidence of trauma. Knowledge of local trauma data helps facilities target at-risk populations.
- ✚ Systemized trauma care influences other aspects of medical care provided (called the halo effect). Trauma potentially affects:
 - Education – provides educational opportunities to staff that are useful for other time sensitive syndromes (stroke, heart attack, etc.).
 - ED – staff and equipment may be used for any emergent condition.

- Lab – staff and equipment
 - Rapid lab results may change the course of treatment or even outcome.
 - Blood availability is important for medical and obstetric patients also.
 - Radiology – staff and equipment – See Lab.
 - Inpatient care unit – trauma protocols, e.g., DVT prophylaxis, may improve care for medical patients.
 - OR and ICU in the facility (if applicable) are available to both medical and trauma patients.
 - Teaches how to do performance improvement for trauma – a skill that crosses over to medical patients and boosts the performance improvement efforts for the facility as a whole.
- + Exposes centers to new ideas both through the review process and through ongoing contact with the trauma community.
 - + Only designated trauma centers can charge trauma team activation fee in addition to ED charges for cases meeting criteria.
 - + Assures that minimum standards are met for care of trauma patients.
 - + Regional and state support for facility trauma program development and management.

What would you lose by not being a trauma center?

- + Ongoing technical assistance from the state with regard to your trauma program.
- + Ability to charge for trauma team activation fees.

Why not be a trauma center?

- + What financial factors are driving you to the decision not to apply for trauma designation?
- + The facility must be willing to meet the minimum standards and to open institution up for review.
- + Money – it costs money to run a designated trauma center, but good quality care is less expensive care in long run.